

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Welcome The Bald Eagles Back To Hideaway Harbor Park Feb. 8

St. Charles County, Missouri – Join the St. Charles County Parks and Recreation Department for the annual **Bald Eagle Winter Watch** program, from 9 a.m. – 1p.m., on Saturday, Feb. 8, at Hideaway Harbor Park, 1550 Hideaway Harbor Dr., in Portage des Sioux, 63373, to view live eagles and learn why these majestic birds return every winter. To celebrate the arrival of our national icon to the area, the parks department is offering several birding activities for the public to participate in while visiting. From 9:30 – 11: 30 a.m., get an up close and personal look at an American bald eagle presented by the World Bird Sanctuary. Through high-powered telescopes, provided by the Astronomical Society of Eastern Missouri (ASEM), spectators will get a chance to view eagles nesting in the trees, in flight, and feeding off the open Mississippi River waters. Park staff will also offer educational eagle presentations and park history tours at the top of every hour, beginning at 9 a.m. through noon. Children will also enjoy assisting staff with building a life-size eagles nest – perfect for photos! A fire ring and hot cocoa will be offered to combat the winter chill.

During this free program, park staff will be available to answer questions about the eagle’s feeding habits, their migration patterns, the structure of their nest, as well as explain the rich history of Hideaway Harbor Park and other birds that live in the 49-acre park. Guests will also have the opportunity to walk to the outskirts of this riverside park that mirrors the scenic Alton bluffs to get the best views of these majestic birds.

Each year, more than 2,000 bald eagles have been reported to migrate to Missouri during the winter season. Eagle watching is usually best during the morning hours when the majestic birds are most active fishing and are frequently seen perching in trees along the river.

To get to Hideaway Harbor Park from St. Charles, take Highway 94 North from Highway 370 until reaching Grafton Ferry Road (approximately eight miles). Turn left on Grafton Ferry Road and turn right on Portage Road until you reach Sioux Drive. Turn left on Sioux Drive into the park. Questions, contact the St. Charles County Parks and Recreation Department at 636.949.7535.

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